



Montgomery County Maryland

THE
MEETING TRANSCRIPT
OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

The Meeting Transcript of The Montgomery County Council



May 3, 2005

TRANSCRIPT -- May 3, 2005 --

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Thomas Perez, President	George Leventhal, Vice President
Phil Andrews	Michael Knapp
Howard Denis	Nancy Floreen
Marilyn J. Praisner	Steven A. Silverman
Michael Subin	

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1 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY, WE WILL BEGIN. PLEASE RISE FOR
2 A MOMENT OF SILENCE. WOW. OKAY. GOOD MORNING. WE HAVE A
3 PRESENTATION FROM COUNCIL MEMBER PRAISNER, A PROCLAMATION
4 HONORING NANCY HEBDON. GOOD MORNING.

5
6 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** GOOD MORNING. EVERYONE IN MONTGOMERY
7 COUNTY IS NOW LEARNING PAINT BRANCH'S SECRET, THE SECRET
8 HAVING YOUNG PEOPLE GROW TO LOVE MATH, WHICH IS HARD TO DO.
9 AND THIS IS OUR SECRET, NANCY HEBDON, HEAD OF THE MATH
10 DEPARTMENT AT PAINT BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL, AND RECOGNIZED THIS
11 YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AS THE AGNES MEYER MONTGOMERY
12 COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR. DID YOU BRING ERMA WITH YOU?

13
14 **NANCY HEBDON:** ERMA IS MY CALCULATOR. NO, SHE'S AT HOME RESTING.

15
16 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** AS NANCY SAID, ERMA IS HER CALCULATOR.
17 ERMA'S HOME, RESTING?

18
19 **NANCY HEBDON:** YES, YES.

20
21 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** SHE'S GETTING HER BATTERIES RECHARGED,
22 I GUESS.

23
24 **NANCY HEBDON:** ALL MY STUDENTS TODAY ARE HAVING A BIG UNIT TEST
25 WHILE I'M AWAY.

26
27 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** I SEE. OKAY, WELL, NOW YOU KNOW WHY
28 AND HOW NANCY MAKES MATH COME ALIVE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE AT
29 PAINT BRANCH, USING ERMA AND OTHER TOOLS INCLUDING HER CHARM,
30 HER WISDOM, HER PATIENCE, AND HER GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR.
31 WHEREAS EACH YEAR THE WASHINGTON POST HONORS EXCEPTIONAL MEN
32 AND WOMEN IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION BY AWARDING TO AN
33 OUTSTANDING TEACHER SELECTED IN EACH OF THE 19 LOCAL SCHOOL
34 SYSTEMS, AND ONE AWARD TO A TEACHER FROM A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN
35 THE METROPOLITAN AREA, THEIR AGNES MEYER AWARD. WHEREAS NANCY
36 HEBDON, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MATH RESOURCE TEACHER AT PAINT
37 BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVED THIS YEAR'S WASHINGTON POST AGNES
38 MEYER OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD. AND WHEREAS MRS. HEBDON USES
39 INNOVATIVE METHODS TO INSPIRE STUDENTS, ALL WITH AN EYE TOWARD
40 OPENING UP THE WORLD OF MATH TO OTHERS. AND WHEREAS NANCY
41 HEBDON'S IMPRESSIVE EFFORTS EXEMPLIFY HOW EDUCATION
42 PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CAN
43 OPEN THE DOORS OF SUCCESS FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MONTGOMERY
44 COUNTY. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MONTGOMERY

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1 COUNTY COUNCIL PROCLAIMS MAY 3RD, 2005 NANCY HEBDON DAY IN
2 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND OFFERS ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY ON
3 HER OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT ON RECEIVING THE WASHINGTON POST
4 AGNES MEYER OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD. AND IT'S PRESENTED THE
5 3RD DAY OF MAY, SIGNED BY OUR PRESIDENT, TOM PEREZ. NANCY,
6 CONGRATULATIONS.

7
8 **NANCY HEBDON:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [APPLAUSE]

9
10 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING?

11
12 **NANCY HEBDON:** IT IS EASY TO ACCEPT AN AWARD FOR SOMETHING THAT
13 YOU LOVE TO DO, AND HAVE LOVED TO DO FOR 35 YEARS. I WANT TO
14 THAN THANK COUNCIL FOR ALL THE SUPPORT THAT THEY ALWAYS GIVE
15 TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. WE ALL DO WORK HARD,
16 BUT IT IS EASY TO REPRESENT SO MANY WONDERFUL, PROFESSIONAL
17 PEOPLE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

18
19 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THANK YOU, GOOD TO SEE YOU. ONE MORE
20 PICTURE? [APPLAUSE]

21
22 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** GREAT, GOOD.

23
24 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** MR. LEVENTHAL?

25
26 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** GOOD MORNING. I'M GOING TO BE JOINED
27 BY THREE COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE VERY AWARE OF MENTAL HEALTH
28 ISSUES. WE HAVE OUR GOOD FRIEND, SUSAN MAGAZINE, WHO CHAIRS
29 OUR MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OKIANER CHRISTIAN
30 DARK, WHO IS THE VICE CHAIR OF THE ON COMMISSION ON HEALTH. I
31 UNDERSTAND THAT OFFICER JOAN LOGAN, WHO IS THE MENTAL HEALTH
32 LIAISON FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, IS HERE
33 WITH US AS WELL. WE ARE TODAY PROCLAIMING THAT THE MONTH OF
34 MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH. WHEREAS GOOD MENTAL
35 HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL TO OVERALL GOOD PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELL-
36 BEING, AND AN IMPORTANT CONCERN AT ALL AGES FROM THE YOUNGEST
37 CHILD FROM THE OLDEST AMONG US. AND WHEREAS THE TERM "MENTAL
38 ILLNESS" REFERS COLLECTIVELY TO DIAGNOSABLE MENTAL DISORDERS
39 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANXIETY, BIPOLAR DISORDER,
40 PSYCHOSIS, DEPRESSION, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND EATING DISORDERS.
41 AND WHEREAS THERE IS A LACK OF ATTENTION TO MENTAL HEALTH AND
42 MENTAL ILLNESS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY IMPACT DIVERSE COMMUNITIES
43 INCLUDING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN, LATINO, AND ASIAN COMMUNITIES.
44 AND WHEREAS THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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1 AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH, AND THE MENTAL
2 HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD AMONG OTHERS, SERVE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
3 RESIDENTS AND ADVOCATES FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES WITH
4 AUTHORITY AND INGENUITY. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE
5 ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE MONTH OF MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
6 MONTH IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. AND WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
7 ACKNOWLEDGE THE EFFORTS OF OUR MANY ADVOCATES ON BEHALF OF
8 MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, INCLUDING THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
9 COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH
10 ADVISORY COMMITTEE. SIGNED BY TOM PEREZ.

11
12 **SUSAN MAGAZINE:** THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

13
14 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** THERE YOU GO. WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF
15 OUR BUDGET DEBATE, AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ARE VERY MUCH IN
16 THE FOREFRONT OF ISSUES WE ARE ADDRESSING. BOTH OF THESE
17 ADVISORY COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN A GREAT, GREAT HELP IN SURFACING
18 THESE ISSUES AND GIVING US SUBSTANTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS. SUSAN
19 OR OKIANER, DID YOU WANT TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS?

20
21 **SUSAN MAGAZINE:** I'D JUST LIKE TO THANK THE COUNCIL ON ITS
22 CONTINUING AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE MENTAL
23 HEALTH CONSUMERS IN OUR COUNTY. AND WE'RE PARTICULARLY
24 CONCERNED THAT CONTINUING FUNDING WILL BE PROVIDED, AS YOU
25 WELL KNOW. BUT WE APPRECIATE THAT THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZES THE
26 NEED TO DE-STIGMATIZE MENTAL HEALTH, AND IS MAKING MENTAL
27 HEALTH MONTH A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.

28
29 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** THANK YOU, SUSAN. OKIANER, DID YOU
30 WANT TO COMMENT?

31
32 **OKIANER DARK:** SIMPLY THAT YOU WANT YOU-- AND AS YOU KNOW WE
33 ARE WORKING TOGETHER. THAT IS, WE ARE NOT SIMPLY WORKING AS
34 THE SILOS IN THE COMMISSIONS AND VARIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEES,
35 BUT THAT WE SEEK OUT OTHER GROUPS THAT HAVE COMMON INTERESTS
36 IN ORDER TO GET THINGS DONE. I KNOW THAT'S IMPORTANT TO THE
37 COUNCIL, AND WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO DO THAT.

38
39 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** THANK YOU. OFFICER LOGAN, DID YOU
40 WANT TO MAKE A COMMENT?

41
42 **OFFICER LOGAN:** JUST ONE REMINDER: EDUCATION. WE LOSE 50 PEOPLE
43 IN OUR COMMUNITY EVERY YEAR TO SUICIDE. 50 PEOPLE. PLEASE
44 EDUCATE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT

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1 SUICIDE CAN BE PREVENTED IF IT'S IDENTIFIED, IF THOSE THAT YOU
2 KNOW ARE SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION. SO, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
3 THIS MONTH TO EDUCATE THOSE THAT YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE WAYS
4 TO TREAT THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION. SO, PLEASE TAKE
5 THIS OPPORTUNITY THAT THE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE GIVEN YOU TO
6 EDUCATE THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT DEPRESSION.

7
8 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** VERY WELL SAID. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
9 [APPLAUSE]

10
11 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY. GENERAL BUSINESS. GENERAL
12 LAUER? [LAUGHTER]

13
14 **CLERK:** CONSENT CALENDAR. WE HAVE AN ADDITION OF ITEM I, WHICH
15 IS AN INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO SET THE AMOUNT OF THE
16 PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR INCOME TAX OFFSET. PUBLIC HEARING WILL
17 BE MAY 18TH AT 9:30 IN THE MORNING. INTRODUCTION ALSO OF A
18 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
19 AND TRANSPORTATION. \$7,645,320 FOR SNOW REMOVAL, WIND, AND
20 RAINSTORMS. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON THAT IS ALSO MAY 18TH
21 AT 9:30. THANK YOU.

22
23 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY. MADAM CLERK, APPROVAL OF
24 MINUTES?

25
26 **CLERK:** WE HAVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 19TH FOR APPROVAL TODAY.

27
28 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY. MOVED AND SECONDED. ALL THOSE
29 IN FAVOR, SIGNIFY BY RAISING YOUR HANDS. UNANIMOUS AMONG THOSE
30 PRESENT. WE HAVE ONE PETITION. IT WAS RECEIVED-- A PETITION
31 FROM PARTICIPANTS AT THE CAR SEAT CHECK AT FITZGERALD'S AUTO,
32 SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR CONTINUATION OF THE CHILD SAFETY SEAT
33 PROGRAM. THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE PETITIONERS. OKAY, MOVING TO
34 CONSENT CALENDAR.

35
36 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** MOVED AND SECONDED, MR. KNAPP?

37
38 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I, AFTER QUICK
39 CONSULTATION WITH MINNA DAVIDSON, WOULD LIKE TO DEFER ACTION
40 ON 2C, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S
41 OPERATING BUDGET FOR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES. IN LIGHT OF
42 SOME OF OUR PENDING OTHER BUDGET DELIBERATIONS, THERE MAY BE
43 SOME MODIFICATIONS TO THIS WE MAY NEED TO MAKE RELATIVE TO

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1 WHAT THE COMMITTEE LOOKED AT WHEN WE APPROVED THIS A WEEK AND
2 A HALF OR SO AGO.

3
4 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** WITHOUT OBJECTION, IT WILL BE REMOVED
5 AT THIS-- DEFERRED AT THIS TIME, PENDING FURTHER ACTION.

6
7 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** RIGHT. HOPEFULLY WE CAN BRING IT BACK
8 NEXT WEEK.

9
10 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** VERY WELL. ITEM A, THE RESOLUTION TO
11 ESTABLISH A LONG BRANCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF EAST SILVER
12 SPRING. THIS IS THE NEXT ITERATION OF THE LONG BRANCH TASK
13 FORCE AND I WANTED IT TO BE-- AND THE CHAIR OF THE P.H.E.D.
14 COMMITTEE WANTED TO HAVE IT REFERRED TO THE P.H.E.D. COMMITTEE.
15 I THINK THAT MAKES SENSE, SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A CONVERSATION
16 ABOUT WHAT THE NEXT ITERATION WILL BE. AND SO, THAT WILL BE
17 REFERRED TO THE P.H.E.D. COMMITTEE. NO OTHER LIGHTS ARE ON.
18 ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, SIGNIFY BY RAISING YOUR HANDS. UNANIMOUS
19 AMONG THOSE PRESENT. OUR NEXT ITEM IS THE COUNTY COUNCIL
20 SITTING AS THE BOARD OF HEALTH. WE ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW
21 TO MEET AS THE BOARD OF HEALTH DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. I
22 DON'T KNOW IF THERE IS A CORRELATION BETWEEN THAT AND MENTAL
23 HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH, BUT WE ARE REQUIRED TO MEET AS A BOARD.
24 WE WILL MEET FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING THE NEXT UPDATE FOR
25 JUNE 21ST OF THIS YEAR. SO, THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TODAY'S
26 MEETING, IS TO SET THE JUNE MEETING. AND THE JUNE MEETING WILL
27 BE A SUBSTANTIVE MEETING, WHERE WE WILL ACTUALLY RECEIVE A
28 BRIEFING FROM DR. TILMAN REGARDING A NUMBER OF ISSUES. I WOULD
29 SIMPLY SUGGEST THAT, BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT COUPLE WEEKS, IF
30 PEOPLE HAVE SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS, THAT THEY SHOULD LET ESSIE
31 KNOW. AND ESSIE WILL COMMUNICATE THOSE ITEMS TO DR. TILMAN. WE
32 HAVE BEEN HAVING A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE HEALTH AND
33 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, FOR INSTANCE, ABOUT THE EFFECT OF
34 STATE REDUCTIONS AND STATE CUTS IN THE MEDICAID BUDGET. THAT
35 IS CERTAINLY AN ISSUE THAT I WILL CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN,
36 BECAUSE THERE CONTINUES TO BE A LOT OF UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING
37 HOW THAT WILL AFFECT MONTGOMERY COUNTY. AND SO IF OTHER ISSUES
38 ARE ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE HOLD FORTH AND MAKE SURE THAT SHE
39 KNOWS, SO THAT WE CAN INFORM DR. TILMAN. DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING,
40 MR. VICE PRESIDENT, THAT YOU WANTED TO ADD ON THAT?

41
42 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** NO. YOU HAVE COVERED IT MR. PRESIDENT.
43 THANK YOU.

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1 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY, MOVING RIGHT ALONG TO DISTRICT
2 COUNCIL SESSION. WE HAVE APPLICATION G826. APPLICANT IS RALPH
3 J. DUFFIE INC. PROPERTY OF 2.82 ACRES, LOCATED ON THE EAST
4 CORNER OF ELTON ROAD AND NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE. OH, MR. SUBIN.
5 I'M SORRY.

6
7 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** A POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE.

8
9 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** DIDN'T SEE YOUR LIGHT, I APOLOGIZE.

10
11 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** I WAS LATE BECAUSE I WAS CHASING FIVE
12 LITTLE GOSLINGS OUT OF THE STREET. I WOULD ASK FOLKS OF THE
13 COUNTY, THIS IS THAT TIME OF YEAR, AND THEY ARE CROSSING THE
14 STREETS. THEY DON'T SEEM TO HEED THE COUNCIL'S JAYWALKING
15 ADMONITIONS. [LAUGHTER]

16
17 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** WELL, WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS
18 GOOD FOR THE GOSLING.

19
20 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** SO PLEASE, MOMMY AND DADDY GOOSE ARE
21 LEADING THEIR FLOCKS ASTRAY. ALSO, FOR ITEM J--

22
23 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** METAPHORICAL FOR TODAY.

24
25 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THE MONTH OF
26 MAY SHOULD BE GOSLING AWARENESS MONTH?

27
28 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** I DON'T THINK THAT IS A BAD IDEA, MR.
29 VICE PRESIDENT. IS THAT A MOTION? [LAUGHTER]

30
31 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** I THINK THE PRESIDENT HAS THE POWER
32 TO PROCLAIM IT ALL BY HIMSELF.

33
34 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** BUT ON ITEM J. FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR,
35 ON THE SNOW REMOVAL. I GUESS THIS IS GOING TO GO TO T & E
36 COMMITTEE, THE SUPPLEMENTAL?

37
38 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** YES, IT WILL.

39
40 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY THAT
41 PART OF THE CIRCUIT BREAKER MONEY WAS GOING TO BE PAID FOR
42 WITH ADDITIONAL SNOW REMOVAL MONEY. I WAS HOPING THAT THE T &
43 E COMMITTEE COULD RESOLVE WHAT SEEMS TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE HERE,
44 THAT WE'RE ASKING FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL ON THE ONE HAND BUT ON

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1 THE OTHER HAND, THAT SAME BUDGET ITEM IS PAYING FOR A THIRD
2 BUDGET ITEM. SO, IF THE T & E COULD RESOLVE THE COUNTY
3 EXECUTIVE'S APPARENT MISMATCH OF FUNDS HERE, I'D APPRECIATE
4 THAT.

5
6 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** WE WILL LOOK TO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR
7 ADVICE ON HOW TO BALANCE OUR BOOKS, MR. SUBIN.

8
9 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** THE T & E COMMITTEE WILL BE HAPPY TO
10 RESOLVE--

11
12 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** WE CAN DO IT, MR. VICE PRESIDENT. DO WE
13 HAVE FREE REIN? [LAUGHTER]

14
15 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** I'M SORRY, MS. FLOREEN? DID YOU HAVE
16 SOMETHING TO ADD?

17
18 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** WELL, WE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE A LOOK AT
19 THAT.

20
21 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY, THANK YOU. WE WERE NOW ON
22 DISTRICT COUNCIL SESSION. I BELIEVE MS. PRAISNER'S LIGHT
23 RELATED TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL SESSION.

24
25 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** YES, REMARKABLY SO, IT DOES.

26
27 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** GREAT. MS. PRAISNER, ALWAYS A
28 PLEASURE. SORRY, WE ARE FOUR MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. I
29 APOLOGIZE.

30
31 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** I WANTED TO MAKE SOME COMMENTS, AND
32 THEN I HAVE A MOTION.

33
34 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY.

35
36 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** A COUPLE OF COMMENTS. FIRST OF ALL, I
37 THINK THE APPLICATION IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD BUT IT DOES
38 RAISE A COUPLE OF INTERESTING THOUGHTS. I WANT TO THANK EILEEN
39 FINNIGAN FOR RAISING THE ISSUE OF WHAT CRITICAL LANE VOLUME
40 COUNTS ONE USES. I THINK THE STAFF IS ACCURATE FROM A
41 STANDPOINT FROM A POINT IN TIME AS WHAT NEEDS TO BE USED, BUT
42 SHE POINTS OUT THAT THIS IS A MOVING TARGET THAT CONTINUES TO
43 EXACERBATE TRAFFIC IN THE AREA WHEN GOVERNMENTS OR OTHERS
44 CHANGE THEIR PROCEDURES AND POLICIES. ALSO, I WASN'T CLEAR IN

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1 THE WAY THINGS WERE READ. THE INITIAL REQUEST IN THE
2 CALCULATION FOR THE TRAFFIC INDICATED THAT THERE-- THE
3 ASSESSMENT WAS DONE ON AN ASSUMPTION THAT A RESTAURANT WOULD
4 BE PART OF ONE OF THE BUILDINGS, BUT THEN LATER IT SAID "MAY".
5 HOW DID YOU-- WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THINGS WERE
6 LEFT?

7
8 **MARTY GROSSMAN:** OKAY. RIGHT NOW, IT IS STILL AN OPTION THAT
9 THERE CAN BE A RESTAURANT THERE. IT IS NOT ONE OF THE USES
10 THAT HAS BEEN EXCLUDED IN THE BINDING ELEMENTS. THIS APPLICANT
11 DID HAVE A SERIES OF USES THAT WERE EXCLUDED IN THE BINDING
12 ELEMENTS, WHICH MADE IT EASIER TO EVALUATE IT. USUALLY IN
13 EVALUATING THIS TYPE OF REZONING REQUEST, ONE LOOKS TO THE
14 MOST INTENSE USE THAT THE PROPERTY COULD BE PUT TO, SO THAT
15 YOU COULD EVALUATE WHAT THE POTENTIAL IMPACT WILL BE ON THE
16 SURROUNDINGS. THE TESTIMONY, ALL THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE, WAS
17 THAT THE MOST INTENSE USE FOR THIS PARTICULAR AREA AND THIS
18 NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD HAVE BEEN AN OFFICE BUILDING WITH A
19 RESTAURANT OF APPROXIMATELY THE SIZE THAT THEY WERE SUGGESTING.
20 AND SO, GIVEN THAT, THE TRAFFIC STUDY THAT WAS DONE AT THE
21 TIME WAS BASED ON THAT ASSUMPTION. LATER, THAT BECAME LESS
22 LIKELY. AND THE BUILDING-- IN FACT, THE LIKELY SIZE OF THE
23 BUILDING SHRANK AS WELL. SO, IT WOULD BE LESS INTENSE THAN
24 THAT AN CERTAINLY, SINCE IT WOULD MEET THE MORE INTENSE
25 STANDARD, IT WOULD MEET THE LESS INTENSE USE.

26
27 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** RIGHT. I FOUND THE ASSUMPTIONS OF THE
28 USE OF A RESTAURANT MEANING MORE INTENSE TRAFFIC--

29
30 **MARTY GROSSMAN:** YES.

31
32 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** --A LITTLE BIT OF A QUESTION FOR ME
33 BUT THAT'S SOMETHING TO PURSUE LATER WITH PLANNING STAFF JUST
34 IN THEIR CALCULATIONS, NOT AN ISSUE FOR THIS APPLICANT, IT
35 APPEARS TO ME. DEPENDS UPON WHAT KIND OF RESTAURANT, IT SEEMS
36 TO ME, AND WHAT HOURS OF THE DAY THE RESTAURANT IS OPEN, AS TO
37 WHETHER IT IS MORE INTENSE AT MORNING RUSH HOUR AS WELL AS
38 EVENING RUSH HOUR ISSUES. I'M GOING TO MOVE APPROVAL OF THE
39 RECOMMENDATION. I THINK THE HEARING EXAMINER'S REPORT IS
40 PRETTY STRAIGHTFORWARD. I WANT TO THANK MS. FINNIGAN FOR
41 RAISING THE ISSUES THAT SHE DOES. I THINK THEY ARE GENERIC,
42 NOT EXCLUSIVELY TO THIS SITE, AND THINGS THAT WE CAN LOOK AT
43 BEYOND THIS APPLICATION. BUT I THINK THE APPLICATION MEETS THE
44 STANDARDS.

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1
2 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** THANKS.

3
4 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** SECOND.

5
6 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** MADAM CLERK, CALL THE ROLL. [CLERK
7 CALLING ROLL]

8
9 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** YES, IT PASSES 8-0. THANK YOU AGAIN.
10 YOUR REPORTS ARE ALWAYS VERY COGENT.

11
12 **MARTY GROSSMAN:** THANK YOU, SIR.

13
14 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY. WE HAVE A HEARING TONIGHT ON
15 THE CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
16 AND WE WANTED TO GET A PRESENTATION TODAY SO THAT WE WILL BE
17 INFORMED AS WE LISTEN TO TONIGHT'S TESTIMONY REGARDING ISSUES
18 INVOLVING THE OPERATING BUDGET, AND IN PARTICULAR HOW MARKET
19 FORCES ARE AFFECTING OUR ABILITY TO BUILD OUR BUILDINGS HERE
20 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. AND WE'RE JOINED BY OUR FRIEND AND
21 COLLEAGUE, MR. HAWES FROM THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. ALWAYS A PLEASURE.

22
23 **DICK HAWES:** THANK YOU, MR. PEREZ. FOR THE RECORD, MY NAME IS
24 DICK HAWES, I'M THE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES FOR THE SCHOOL
25 SYSTEM. WE WANTED TO GIVE THE COUNCIL A LITTLE BRIEFING ON
26 WHAT WE'VE EXPERIENCED IN TERMS OF THE CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL
27 PRICES OVER THE PAST YEAR. SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT LAST
28 FALL, WE ALERTED THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL
29 THAT WE WERE STARTING TO EXPERIENCE A BIG RUN-UP IN
30 CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL PRICES FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR
31 THROUGH THE THIRD QUARTER. THINGS REALLY PEAKED IN THE THIRD
32 QUARTER. AND PRICES WERE HOVERING AROUND 10% TO 15% MORE THAN
33 WE ANTICIPATED BACK IN IN F.Y. 2003-- OR BACK IN 2003, WHEN WE
34 BUDGETED FOR THE CURRENT C.I.P.. THE REASONS FOR THE MATERIAL
35 PRICE INCREASES WERE PRIMARILY INCREASED GLOBAL DEMAND IN
36 ASIAN MARKETS. THEY WERE USING A LOT OF STEEL AND CONCRETE
37 BECAUSE THEY HAD A GIGANTIC CONSTRUCTION BOOM GOING ON IN
38 PRIMARILY SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN AND CHINA. THAT WAS CAUSING SOME
39 RAW MATERIAL SHORTAGES. AND WE HAD THE UBIQUITOUS INCREASE IN
40 TRANSPORTATION COSTS THAT WERE OCCURRING BECAUSE OF HIGHER
41 ENERGY AND FUEL COSTS. ANOTHER THING THAT WAS DRIVING THE
42 INCREASE IN PRICES WAS THE DROP IN THE DOLLAR, WHICH MADE OUR
43 EXPORTS MUCH CHEAPER. AND ALSO THE PROTECTIVE TARIFFS IN THE
44 STEEL MARKET THAT HAVE BEEN ENACTED BY CONGRESS, WAS ALLOWING

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1 THE DOMESTIC STEEL PRODUCERS TO KEEP THEIR PRICES UP A LITTLE
2 HIGHER BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF IMPORTS, BECAUSE OF THE WEAKENED
3 DOLLAR, WAS WEAKENING COMPETITION IN OUR MARKETS. PRIMARY
4 CULPRIT, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, WAS THE-- WERE METAL PRODUCTS,
5 BASICALLY. CHINA, WHICH IS THE LARGEST STEEL PRODUCER IN THE
6 WORLD, UP UNTIL LAST YEAR WAS AN EXPORTER OF STEEL. BUT,
7 DURING 2004, THEY BECAME AN IMPORTER OF STEEL AND THEY ENDED
8 UP IMPORTING 37 MILLION METRIC TONS OF STEEL IN 2004. THIS
9 HUGE DEMAND FOR METAL PRODUCTS REALLY PUT A STRAIN ON THE RAW
10 MATERIALS THAT ARE USED TO MANUFACTURE STEEL. AND THAT IS
11 SCRAP, IRON ORE AND COPE, USED IN THE COMBUSTION PROCESS TO
12 MAKE SLAB PRODUCTS IN STEEL MILLS. AND AGAIN, AS I MENTIONED
13 BEFORE, THE U.S. PRODUCERS WERE ABLE TO KEEP THEIR PRICES UP
14 ON DOMESTIC STOCK BECAUSE OF THE TARIFFS ENACTED BY CONGRESS
15 AND THE FACT THAT, BECAUSE THE DOLLAR HAD DROPPED SO MUCH
16 AGAINST THE EURO, IT WAS MUCH MORE PROFITABLE FOR ALL THE BIG
17 STEEL PRODUCERS IN GERMANY AND SOUTH KOREA TO SEND THEIR
18 PRODUCTS TO THE ASIAN MARKETS, WHERE THEY WERE MAKING MORE
19 MONEY PER TON. THAT DECREASE IN IMPORTS REALLY WEAKENED
20 COMPETITION IN THE DOMESTIC MARKETS, ALLOWING THE U.S.
21 MANUFACTURERS TO KEEP PRICES UP FOR ANY DOMESTICALLY-PRODUCED
22 STEEL. HERE IS BASICALLY WHAT HAPPENED. I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU
23 WITH A SERIES OF GRAPHS. BASICALLY, WHAT HAPPENED WAS BETWEEN
24 JANUARY OF 2004 AND OCTOBER OF 2004, YOU HAD A 54% INCREASE IN
25 THE MILL PRICES FOR THE BASIC PRODUCT FOR THE BASIC PRODUCT
26 THAT'S USED TO MAKE THE FINISHED PRODUCTS. THESE ARE THE MILL
27 PLATE PRICES, OR MILL SLAB PRICES, FOR THE RAW MATERIALS USED
28 TO MAKE STRUCTURAL STEEL, DUCT WORK, REINFORCING STEEL, AND
29 ALL THE OTHER PRODUCTS USED IN CONSTRUCTION. SO, IN THE
30 STRUCTURAL STEEL PRODUCT LINE, YOU HAVE A 54% INCREASE BETWEEN
31 JANUARY AND OCTOBER. IT WENT UP \$225 A TON. SHEET STEEL, WHICH
32 IS USED IN PRIMARILY AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTS
33 LIKE DUCT WORK AND LOCKERS, IT WENT UP 140% TO \$425 A TON IN A
34 LITTLE OVER FIVE MONTHS. AND COIL PRODUCTS, WHICH ARE USED IN
35 THINGS BASICALLY LIKE THE LOWER END OF SHEET PRODUCTS, NOT IN
36 AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING BUT IN ENCLOSURES AND THINGS FOR
37 MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT AND THAT SORT OF THING, YOU HAD A 73%
38 INCREASE, WHICH TRANSLATES TO \$275 A TON. THE COMPOSITE
39 INCREASE WAS \$308 A TON, WHICH IS 89% OVER WHAT THEY WERE
40 SELLING FOR IN JANUARY OF 2004. BECAUSE METAL PRODUCTS ARE
41 USED ACROSS THE SPECTRUM IN SCHOOL AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION,
42 EVERY TIME YOU HAVE \$100 INCREASE IN A TON OF STEEL, IT
43 TRANSLATES TO 3.5% INCREASE IN THE OVERALL COST OF
44 CONSTRUCTION. SO THAT \$308 PER TON IN THE COMPOSITE COST OF

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1 STEEL BETWEEN JANUARY OF '04 AND OCTOBER '04 TRANSLATED INTO
2 ALMOST A 12% INCREASE IN THE OVERALL CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS--
3 OVERALL CONSTRUCTION COSTS ALONE. NOW, THESE ARE JUST SOME
4 GRAPHS. THIS IS THE PRODUCER PRICE INDEX INCREASES FOR IRON
5 AND STEEL FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR B.L.S. DATA. YOU
6 CAN SEE BETWEEN JANUARY OF '02 AND JANUARY OF '04, THE INDEX
7 WAS RELATIVELY FLAT. WE HAD A VERY FLAT MARKET, PRICES WERE
8 VERY STABLE. BUT THEN IN JANUARY OF '04, BECAUSE OF THAT
9 INCREASE IN GLOBAL DEMAND, YOU CAN SEE HOW THE INDEX JUMPED
10 FROM LITTLE OVER 130 ALL THE WAY UP TO 175, JUST FOR IRON AND
11 STEEL MILL PRICES. THIS IS A GRAPH SHOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO
12 WORLD CARBON MILL STEEL PRODUCT PRICES. THESE ARE PER-TON
13 PRICES. AGAIN, YOU SEE FEBRUARY 2003 TO FEBRUARY 2004, THE
14 PRICES ARE RELATIVELY FLAT. I DIDN'T HAVE THE DATA FROM 2002
15 TO 2003. BUT THEN, IN JANUARY OF 2004 YOU HAVE THAT BIG RUN-UP
16 IN PRICES. YOU SEE STRUCTURAL STEEL PRICES WENT UP 54%. AS I
17 INDICATED EARLIER, HOT-ROLLED COIL PRODUCTS WENT UP 73%.
18 REINFORCING STEEL WENT UP 47% JUST OVER THAT NINE-MONTH PERIOD.
19 THESE ARE OUR PRICES FOR HOT-ROLLED MILL SHEET STEEL, WHICH IS
20 THE HIGHER END FABRICATED SHEET PRODUCTS LIKE AUTOMOBILE
21 MANUFACTURING. AND THIS IS THE ONE I INDICATED EARLIER WENT UP
22 140%. YOU CAN SEE THAT IN JANUARY OF 2004, IT WAS SELLING FOR
23 ABOUT \$260 A TON, AND THEN IN OCTOBER OF 2004 IT WENT ALL THE
24 WAY UP TO ALMOST \$700 A TON. THE OTHER PRODUCTS THAT WERE
25 EXPERIENCING AN INCREASE IN DEMAND WERE CONCRETE, GYPSUM AND
26 MACHINERY EQUIPMENT. PRIMARY FOR SAME REASONS: GLOBAL DEMAND,
27 RAW MATERIAL SHORTAGES. THERE WAS A BIG RUN UP IN USE OF
28 READY-MIX CONCRETE, AND THAT CAUSED SOME SUPPLY SHORTAGES IN
29 THE CEMENT PRODUCTS USED TO MAKE READY-MIX CONCRETE. AND THEN
30 THE OTHER THING AFFECTING THIS INDUSTRY WAS, THESE PRODUCTS
31 THAT ARE MADE IN MANUFACTURING PLANTS THAT OVER THE YEARS HAVE
32 SWITCHED FROM FUEL OIL TO NATURAL GAS BECAUSE IT IS A MUCH
33 CLEANER BURNING FUEL. IT WAS LESS EXPENSIVE UP UNTIL A YEAR
34 AGO. THEY BUILT THIS MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY INTO THEIR NEW
35 PLANT EXPANSIONS, AND NOW THEY ARE STUCK WITH USING NATURAL
36 GAS THAT HAS DOUBLED SINCE 2004 FROM 61 CENTS A THERM TO \$1.21
37 A THERM. AGAIN, THESE ARE ALL BULK PRODUCTS THAT ARE SHIPPED
38 RAIL, BY SHIP AND THAT SORT OF THING. FUEL COSTS HAVE DOUBLED
39 AND TRIPLED IN SOME CASES, WHICH HAS ALSO DRIVEN THE INCREASE
40 IN PRICES FOR THESE PRODUCTS. THIS IS JUST SOME GRAPHS ON
41 CEMENT. YOU CAN SEE AGAIN, THE SAME PATTERN. BETWEEN JANUARY
42 '02 AND JANUARY '04, THE PRICES ARE FLAT. YOU HAD THE BIG RUN
43 UP IN THE PRICE INDEXES FROM JANUARY OF '04 TO OCTOBER OR
44 SEPTEMBER OF '04. THE SAME THING FOR READY-MIX CONCRETE. SAME

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1 PATTERN, VERY FLAT TWO YEARS WHEN THE MARKET WAS STABLE, THEN
2 A BIG RUN UP. AND THEN THE SAME THING FOR CONSTRUCTION
3 MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND THEN GYPSUM. SO YOU CAN SEE THE
4 SAME BASIC PATTERN WAS AFFECTING MARKET FROM 2001 OR 2002 TO
5 2004, AND THEN THE BIG RUN UP STARTED WHEN YOU HAD THE
6 INCREASE IN GLOBAL DEMAND. LAST YEAR, WE WERE FORTUNATE. THE
7 BIG SPIKE DIDN'T HIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SUMMER. WE BID 11
8 PROJECTS BETWEEN MAY AND SEPTEMBER. WE GOT NINE PROJECTS OUT
9 BEFORE THE MARKET STARTED TO OVERHEAT. THEY WERE WITHIN OUR
10 PROJECTIONS FROM 2003. BUT THE LAST THREE PROJECTS HIT RIGHT
11 AT THE NEXUS OF THAT BIG RUN UP, AND THEY CAME IN OVER THE
12 PROJECTED ESTIMATES. THE FINAL PROJECT, CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL,
13 WAS 10% OVER PRICES PROJECTED IN 2003 FOR THIS CURRENT C.I.P.
14 NOW, WE WERE FORTUNATE IN 2002 AND 2003 WHEN THE MARKET WAS
15 STABLE. WE ACTUALLY HAD SURPLUSES IN SOME OF THE PROJECTS THAT
16 WE ASKED YOU ALL TO TRANSFER, TO ALLOW US TO USE FOR THE
17 SHORTAGES WE HAD IN THOSE LAST THREE PROJECTS THAT WERE BID
18 LAST YEAR. IN OCTOBER WHEN THE MARKET STARTED TO OVERHEAT, WE
19 DEVELOPED A POSITION PAPER ON MATERIAL COST INCREASES AND
20 TRIED TO DO A MARKET ASSESSMENT ON WHAT WAS COMING FOR THE
21 NEXT TWO QUARTERS. WE SENT THAT DATA OVER TO THE COUNTY
22 EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE, AND OVER TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
23 AND BASICALLY, WHAT WE SAID WAS THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF DATA
24 OUT THERE FROM OUR MARKET ASSESSMENT THAT WAS SAYING BASICALLY
25 THAT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF LAST YEAR AND THE FIRST QUARTER
26 OF THIS YEAR THINGS, WERE GOING TO START TO SLOW. THINGS WERE
27 GOING TO START TO SLOW DOWN, PRICES WERE GOING TO START TO
28 MODERATE AND GET DOWN CLOSER TO WHAT THEY WERE IN 2003 AND
29 BEGINNING OF 2004. THE REASON FOR THAT WAS THAT THE ECONOMISTS
30 WERE SAYING THAT THE HIGHER ENERGY COSTS WERE GOING TO
31 EVENTUALLY START SLOWING GROWTH GRADUALLY- SLOWING GLOBAL
32 GROWTH GRADUALLY. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN THE LAST QUARTER
33 OF LAST YEAR WAS STARTING TO ENFORCE LENDING LIMITS TO SLOW
34 DOMESTIC GROWTH BECAUSE THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT OVERHEATING
35 IN THEIR DOMESTIC MARKETS. RAW MATERIAL PRICES WERE STARTING
36 TO CATCH UP WITH THE DEMAND SPIKE, WHICH LED A LOT OF ANALYSTS
37 TO THINK THAT THAT WAS GOING TO HAVE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON
38 MATERIAL PRICES. THEN THERE WAS A PROJECTED BIG DROP IN THE
39 DEMAND FOR SHEET STEEL DUE TO THE WEAKENING ON AUTO SALES.

40
41 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** DICK, I GUESS MY QUESTION WOULD BE
42 WHAT WILL WE DO ABOUT OF THIS NOW? SO MAYBE WE CAN-- I THINK
43 YOU HAVE MADE THE CASE THAT WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM HERE, HOUSTON.
44 HOW DOES THAT AFFECT--

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1
2 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** I JUST WANT MY COLLEAGUES TO KNOW
3 THERE WILL BE AN EXAM ON THE SPIKE IN GYPSUM PRICES OVER THE
4 YEARS, SO PAY ATTENTION.
5

6 **DICK HAWES:** I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO JUST TAKE A
7 QUICK LOOK IF YOU DON'T MIND, MR. PEREZ, AND THEN I WILL GET
8 TO THE BOTTOM LINE. WHAT WE BASICALLY DECIDED LAST YEAR IN
9 CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL LEADERSHIP WAS THERE WASN'T MUCH
10 WE COULD DO ONCE WE FINISHED BIDDING CLARKSBURG, BECAUSE WE
11 DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO BID UNTIL THIS YEAR. SO, WE WERE GOING
12 TO WATCH THE MARKETS AND THEN, FIT WAS STILL A PROBLEM THIS
13 YEAR, WE WOULD COME TO YOU AND FIGURE OUT HOW WE WERE GOING TO
14 DEAL WITH THAT PROBLEM. COULD YOU FLIP FORWARD? I JUST WANT TO
15 SHOW YOU VERY QUICKLY WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE OCTOBER OF LAST
16 YEAR AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. ENERGY COSTS HAVE NOT
17 SLOWED GLOBAL GROWTH. WE STILL HAVE CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE
18 ASIAN MARKETS. CHINA ENTERED FOURTH QUARTER- THEIR G.P.E.
19 GROWTH IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR WAS 6.7%, AND IT'S
20 9.5% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, SO THERE HASN'T BEEN A
21 SLOWDOWN GLOBALLY BECAUSE OF FUEL COSTS. RAW MATERIAL PRICES
22 ARE STILL UP. THERE'S STILL A LOT OF DEMAND IN U.S. FOR METAL
23 PRODUCTS. THE ONLY THING THAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT SHEET STEEL
24 DEMAND HAS DECLINED 18%, BUT IT IS STILL UP 105% OVER THE
25 JANUARY 2004 PRICE. SO ANYWAY-- JOE, IF YOU COULD JUST FLIP
26 THROUGH THAT REAL QUICKLY. THAT WAS JUST TO SHOW YOU BASICALLY
27 THAT PRICES HAVE NOT MODERATED FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH THE
28 FIRST QUARTER LIKE WE THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO. SO WHERE ARE
29 WE? WE BID THREE PROJECTS BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND MARCH. THEY
30 CAME IN AT \$168 TO \$178 A SQUARE FOOT. THE PRICES 2002 WERE
31 \$125 A SQUARE FOOT. IN 2003, THEY WERE \$128 A SQUARE FOOT.
32 CLARKSBURG CAME IN AT \$156 IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 2004. SO,
33 YOU CAN SEE THE BIG DIFFERENCE IN PRICE. THE CURRENT PRICES
34 RIGHT NOW ARE ABOUT 20% OVER WHAT WE PROJECTED IN THE FALL OF
35 2003 FOR THE 2005 TO 2010 C.I.P. AND WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES
36 THAT ARE GOING THROUGH THIS PROBLEM. THESE ARE JUST SOME LOCAL
37 COMPARISONS. PG COUNTY BID A SCHOOL RECENTLY. IT WAS 15% OVER
38 THEIR PROJECTED ESTIMATES. IT CAME IN AT \$178 A SQUARE FOOT.
39 FAIRFAX COUNTY HAD A MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITION COME IN AT \$172 A
40 SQUARE FOOT. FREDERICK COUNTY JUST BID A MIDDLE AT \$191 A
41 SQUARE FOOT. ARLINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA JUST HAD TWO PROJECT
42 BIDS THAT CAME IN 40% OVER ARLINGTON'S PROJECTIONS AND 24%
43 OVER ALEXANDRIA'S PROJECTIONS. NOW, THE I.C. HAS RECOGNIZED
44 THIS BIG RUN UP OVER THE PAST YEAR. SOME GOOD NEWS IS THAT

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1 THEY HAVE KICKED THEIR RATE UP FROM \$156 A SQUARE FOOT TO \$176
2 A SQUARE FOOT FOR 2006. WHERE WE ARE BASICALLY, IF PRICES STAY
3 THE WAY THEY ARE THROUGH THE REST OF THE YEAR, WE'RE GOING TO
4 HAVE INCREASED EXPENDITURES FOR THE PROJECTS OF OUR PROGRAM TO
5 BID THIS YEAR OF \$4 MILLION DOLLARS IN 2005 AND \$15 MILLION
6 DOLLARS IN 2006. WE WERE FORTUNATE IN ONE RESPECT THAT STATE
7 AID FOR 2006 IS GOING TO BE \$30 MILLION DOLLARS INSTEAD OF THE
8 \$20 MILLION DOLLARS WE ASSUMED WHEN WE WERE DOING S.A.G.
9 CALCULATIONS FOR THE SIX-YEAR PERIOD LAST YEAR. SO, THAT
10 ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION DOLLARS REDUCES OUR PROBLEM TO A \$5
11 MILLION DOLLAR INCREASE IN 2006. BOTTOM LINE IS WE'VE GOT TO
12 FIND \$4 MILLION DOLLARS IN 2005 AND \$5 MILLION DOLLARS IN 2006
13 IF WE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING THAT WE HAVE PROGRAMMED FOR 2006.
14 SO, WE LOOKED AT TWO WAYS TO DEAL WITH THIS. ONE IS A
15 REPRIORITIZATION OF OUR PROJECTS, WHERE WE DECREASE
16 EXPENDITURES BY \$4 MILLION IN 2005 AND \$5 MILLION IN 2006.
17 ANOTHER SCENARIO WE LOOKED AT WAS DECREASING EXPENDITURES IN
18 2006 BY \$9 MILLION DOLLARS AND JUST GOING FORWARD WITH THE
19 2005 EXPENDITURES. ONE OPTION WE ALSO LOOKED AT WAS ASKING FOR
20 \$9 MILLION DOLLARS EXTRA SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE DEFERRALS. AND
21 THEN WE ALSO LOOKED AT A COMBINATION OF ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL
22 FUNDS AND DEFERRING SOME PROJECTS. WE KNOW THE COUNCIL'S
23 POSITION ON EACH AGENCY. WE KNOW THAT THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZES
24 THAT COSTS ARE INCREASING, AND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN HEARING
25 SIMILAR STORIES FROM OTHER AGENCIES. WE ALSO KNOW YOU WANT
26 EACH AGENCY TO STAY WITHIN THEIR PROGRAMMED ALLOCATIONS FOR
27 F.Y. 2006. IN DISCUSSING THE WHOLE ISSUE WITH COUNCIL STAFF,
28 COUNTY EXECUTIVE STAFF, WE WERE TOLD THAT THERE IS A POTENTIAL
29 SURPLUS IN BONDING CAPACITY IN F.Y. 2005, AND SO WE TOOK THAT
30 INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN WE DISCUSSED THIS SITUATION WITH THE
31 SUPERINTENDENT. BASICALLY, WHAT WE CAME TO OUR BOARD WITH WAS
32 A RECOMMENDATION TO DO A COMBINATION OF THINGS. WHAT WE
33 RECOMMENDED WAS THAT WE ASK YOU TO USE SOME OF THAT EXCESS
34 BONDING CAPACITY IN 2005 TO OFFSET THE \$4 MILLION DOLLARS IN
35 INCREASED EXPENDITURES FOR 2005. THAT WOULD FUND THE FOUR NEW
36 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THAT WERE FUNDED IN 2005 BUT WEREN'T
37 SCHEDULED TO BID THIS SPRING. THOSE FOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
38 ARE CLARKSBURG/DAMASCUS NUMBER SEVEN, NORTHWEST NUMBER SEVEN.
39 THE NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM NUMBER 16, WHICH IS THE REOPENING OF
40 BROOKVIEW, AND THEN THE DOWN COUNTY CONSORTIUM, NUMBER 27,
41 WHICH IS THE REOPENING OF CONNECTICUT PARK. ALL FOUR OF THOSE
42 SCHOOLS ARE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE BOARD'S HIT LIST
43 BECAUSE THEY'RE NEEDED TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AT SCHOOLS THAT
44 ARE AT ANYWHERE FROM 52% TO 112% OVER CAPACITY. FOR THE F.Y.

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1 2006 PROJECTS, WHAT WE ASKED THE BOARD TO DO WAS ESTABLISH
2 PRIORITIES FOR THE F.Y. 2006 PROJECTS AND THEN BID THE
3 PROJECTS. AND THEN WE WOULD HAVE TIME TO LOOK AT WHETHER OR
4 NOT-- THERE IS, AGAIN, SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE MARKET MAY
5 ADJUST ITSELF OVER THE NEXT THREE TO SIX MONTHS AND WE MAY SEE
6 PRICES COME DOWN A LITTLE BIT. IF THAT OCCURS AND WE FIND OUT
7 THAT WE'RE NOT 20% OVER FOR THE REST OF OUR 2006 BID PROJECTS
8 BUT SOMETHING LESS, THEN WE'LL ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT DEFERRING
9 THE PROJECTS FOR THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WE NEED IN F.Y. 2006
10 AS OPPOSED TO SAYING WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN
11 WE'RE GOING TO BE 20% OVER NOW AND SO WE'RE GOING TO DEFER \$5
12 MILLION DOLLARS IN PROJECTS, OR \$5 MILLION DOLLARS IN
13 EXPENDITURES. WHAT THE BOARD DID ON APRIL 25TH WAS REQUEST AN
14 F.Y. 2005 SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO FUND THOSE FOUR ELEMENTARY
15 SCHOOLS, THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES WE NEED IN 2005 FOR THOSE
16 FOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. AS PART OF THE ACTION THAT THEY TOOK
17 ON APRIL 25TH, THEY'VE ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES FOR ALL OF THE
18 2006 PROJECTS. THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY, THE HIGHEST PRIORITY
19 IS THE TWO MODERNIZATION PROJECTS WE'RE BIDDING THIS SUMMER.
20 RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY
21 BECAUSE WE ARE GETTING \$12 MILLION DOLLARS IN STATE AID FOR
22 RICHARD MONTGOMERY. IF WE DEFER THAT PROJECT WE'LL LOSE \$12
23 MILLION DOLLARS IN STATE AID, SO OBVIOUSLY IT DOESN'T MAKE
24 SENSE TO DO THAT. PARKLAND WE ARE NOT RECOMMENDING WE DEFER
25 BECAUSE IT IS A MIDDLE SCHOOL MODERNIZATION. WE ONLY HAVE ONE
26 MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLDING FACILITY. IF WE DEFER PARKLAND, WE ARE
27 GOING TO DEFER ALL THE OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOLS BEHIND IT. SINCE
28 OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL MODERNIZATION CYCLE WAS ON A 51-YEAR CYCLE
29 RIGHT NOW, THE BOARD DIDN'T FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD DEFERRING
30 MIDDLE SCHOOL MODERNIZATIONS ANY FURTHER. THE NEXT GROUP OF
31 PRIORITIES ARE THE HIGH SCHOOL ADDITIONS, NORTHWEST AND
32 GAITHERSBURG. BOTH OF THOSE ADDITIONS HAVE BEEN DEFERRED ONCE
33 ALREADY, AND THEY ARE NEEDED NOW FOR OVER-UTILIZATION AT THOSE
34 TWO HIGH SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN UP THE UPPER 20%. THE NEXT GROUP
35 OF PROJECTS FOR '06 WOULD BE THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION
36 CAPACITY PROJECTS. THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN THAT GROUP IS BROAD
37 ACRES, FOR TWO REASONS. ONE, IT WAS SCHEDULED TO BE BID LAST
38 YEAR AND DONE LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, WE DEFERRED IT FOR A YEAR
39 BECAUSE WE WANTED TO PUT THEM INTO A HOLDING FACILITY THAT
40 WASN'T AVAILABLE FOR THIS YEAR, BECAUSE THE COMPLEXITY OF
41 THAT PROJECT WAS GOING TO MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO DO AROUND
42 THE KIDS. AND SECONDLY, WE'VE ALSO GOTTEN \$2 MILLION DOLLARS
43 IN STATE AID FOR BROAD ACRES IN 2006. AGAIN, IF WE DEFERRED
44 THAT, WE'D LOSE \$2 MILLION DOLLARS IN STATE AID. THE NEXT FOUR

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1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION PROJECTS ARE TAKEN STRICTLY BY
2 UTILIZATION. WATKINS MILL WILL BE THE NEXT HIGHEST BECAUSE
3 IT'S GOING TO BE 51% OVER-UTILIZED IN 2007. GARRETT PARK WILL
4 BE 33% OVER-UTILIZED IN 2007. WE HAVE THE SEVEN LOCKS
5 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT FACILITY UP THERE BECAUSE THAT
6 IS PRIMARILY BEING DONE TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR POTOMAC. AND
7 POTOMAC WILL BE 26% OVER-UTILIZED BY 2007 IF WE DON'T BUILD
8 THAT SCHOOL. THE NEXT PRIORITY, OR THE LOWEST PRIORITY IN THAT
9 GROUP OF PROJECTS, IS THE FARMLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION,
10 WHICH WILL ONLY BE 22% OVER-UTILIZED IN 2007. AND THEN THE
11 NEXT LOWEST PRIORITY WOULD BE ROCKVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S
12 GYM ADDITION, WHICH COULD BE DEFERRED AND NOT IMPACT PROGRAM
13 FOR ONE YEAR. AND THEN THE LOWEST PRIORITY IS ADVANCED
14 PLANNING FUNDS THAT WE GOT IN 2005, OR THAT WERE PROGRAMMED IN
15 2006. BASICALLY, WE ASKED FOR PROGRAM FUNDS OR PLANNING FUNDS
16 FOR FOUR PROJECTS. CASHELL'S MODERNIZATION, GALWAY'S
17 MODERNIZATION, BCC'S ADDITION, AND PYLE'S ADDITION IN ADVANCE,
18 BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE THE
19 CONSTRUCTION OF THOSE PROJECTS, OR ASK YOU TO MOVE
20 CONSTRUCTION OF THOSE PROJECTS FORWARD. SO, WE ASKED FOR THE
21 PLANNING FUNDS AND YOU APPROVED THE PLANNING FUNDS A YEAR
22 EARLIER THAN WE NEED THEM. WE COULD DEFER THOSE PLANNING FUNDS
23 BACK AND NOT DEFER, OR NOT DELAY, THE CONSTRUCTION AS IT IS
24 PLANNED IN THE C.I.P.. AND SINCE THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY THAT
25 WE'RE GOING TO BE ASKING TO MOVE THOSE PROJECTS FORWARD NOW,
26 THESE PLANNING FUNDS CAN BE DEFERRED BACK TO THEIR NORMAL
27 PLANNING SCHEDULE. IT WOULD DEFER A MILLION DOLLARS IN
28 EXPENDITURES IN 2006 WITHOUT HAVING ANY IMPACT ON THE
29 CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FOR THOSE FOUR PROJECTS. SO AGAIN,
30 THAT'S WHAT THE BOARD HAS DONE. WE'RE GOING TO BID THE 2006
31 PROJECTS, FIGURE OUT HOW MUCH WE HAVE TO DEFER IN ACTUAL
32 EXPENDITURES IN 2006, COME BACK TO YOU AND ASK FOR AMENDMENTS
33 BASED ON WHAT HAS TO BE DEFERRED, AND THEN HOPEFULLY YOU WILL
34 APPROVE THE F.Y. 2005 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OR SPECIAL
35 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THAT WILL ALLOW
36 US TO GO FORWARD WITH THOSE PROJECTS.

37
38 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** THANK YOU, DR. HAWES. DR. ORLIN, YOU
39 MAY WANT TO COME UP HERE BECAUSE THERE MAY BE A QUESTION OR
40 TWO FOR YOU. I'M GOING TO TURN TO MR. SUBIN IN A MINUTE, BUT I
41 DID WANT TO ASK ONE QUICK QUESTION. I HEARD A \$9 MILLION
42 DOLLAR GAP DESCRIBED BY MR. HAWES. IS THAT CORRECT?

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1 **RICHARD HAWES:** YES, ASSUMING THE \$10 MILLION DOLLARS IN
2 ADDITIONAL STATE AID.

3
4 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** CORRECT. WHAT ABOUT THE IMPACT TAX?
5 THAT'S WHY I WAS ASKING YOU TO-- SO, \$9 MILLION IS THE FLOOR
6 OF THE GAP. IS THAT A MORE ACCURATE STATEMENT?

7
8 **DR. ORLIN:** WELL, THERE'S SEVERAL DIFFERENT RESOURCES THAT GO
9 INTO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND WE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO GET A
10 HANDLE ON WHAT HAPPENED THROUGH THE END OF APRIL. AND SO, I
11 DON'T REALLY WANT TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ABOUT SPECIFICS. I WILL
12 SAY THAT THE SCHOOL IMPACT TAX STILL LAGS QUITE A BIT FROM
13 WHAT WE HAD EXPECTED. WE HAD PROGRAMMED ORIGINALLY \$24 MILLION
14 DOLLARS. BACK LAST JANUARY, WE REDUCED THE EXPECTATION TO \$14
15 MILLION DOLLARS. THIS IS FOR '05 NOW, THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR
16 WE ARE IN. THAT WAS THE PREDICATE FOR RAISING THE BOND LIMIT
17 ESSENTIALLY BY \$10 MILLION DOLLARS, FROM \$199 MILLION TO \$209
18 MILLION. SO, THAT WAS A SWAP. WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYWHERE
19 NEAR \$14 MILLION. WE ARE DOING BETTER IN THE SECOND HALF OF
20 THE FISCAL YEAR THAN WE DID IN THE FIRST HALF. THE ASSUMPTION
21 THE COUNCIL HAD MADE WAS THAT THE SECOND HALF OF THE FISCAL
22 YEAR WAS GOING TO BE ESSENTIALLY ON TRACK WITH WHAT WE WOULD
23 HAVE EXPECTED EVERY MONTH, TO GET \$24 MILLION, AND THAT HASN'T
24 HAPPENED. NOW, WE ARE DOING BETTER IN RECORDATION TAX THAN WE
25 HAD THOUGHT. WE KNEW THAT BACK IN FEBRUARY AS WELL. WE NEED TO
26 GET AN UPDATE ON THAT, SO WE DON'T HAVE PRECISELY KNOWING
27 WHAT-- THIS IS THE INCREMENT OF THE RECORDATION TAX FOR SCHOOL
28 CONSTRUCTION WE ARE TALKING ABOUT. THAT COULD COVER PART OF
29 THE SHORTFALL. AND WHEN MR. HAWES AND MR. LAVORANA CAME
30 FORWARD WITH THE IDEA OF FUNDING SOME OF THE '06 INCREASES AND
31 '05 AS PART OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL I SAID, "YEAH, GO AHEAD AND DO
32 THAT BECAUSE AT LEAST IT PUTS US AN OPTION ON THE TABLE," BUT
33 WE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT WE COULD FUND IT. AND I STILL
34 CAN'T SAY THAT WE NECESSARILY CAN FUND IT. WE'LL KNOW PROBABLY
35 WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO. BUT IN ANY EVENT, IF THEY DON'T
36 HAPPEN IN '05, THEY'LL HAPPEN IN '06 FOR THOSE PARTICULAR
37 PROJECTS. SO, STAY TUNED. THAT IS ALL WE CAN REALLY TELL YOU
38 NOW.

39
40 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** I WILL DO THESE IN ORDER. MR. SUBIN
41 WAS FIRST. MS. PRAISNER, AND THEN MR. DENIS.

42
43 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WELL I THINK
44 THAT, IN TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING THE CONSTRUCTION MARKET AND

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1 WHAT IS GOING ON OUT THERE, THERE IS PROBABLY NO BETTER
2 COMBINATION THAN MR. HAWES AND DR. ORLIN IN LOOKING AT WHAT
3 THE IMPACTS ARE. I'M A LITTLE BIT UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS
4 BRIEFING BECAUSE IT'S VERY MUCH OUT OF CONTEXT. THE ASSUMPTION,
5 I THINK, SEEMS TO BE THAT THE ONLY FOLK AFFECTED BY THIS ARE
6 THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND THAT FRANKLY ISN'T TRUE. THE COLLEGE IS
7 SEVERELY IMPACTED BY THIS. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
8 WHEN WE BUILD ROADS USES AN EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF CONCRETE
9 AND STEEL. AND SO, THERE'S A VERY HEAVY IMPACT THERE. WE'RE
10 NOT HEARING WHAT THAT IMPACT IS ACROSS THE BOARD. AND I WOULD
11 IMAGINE THAT IF IT IS \$9 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE SCHOOL SYSTEM,
12 WE'RE PROBABLY LOOKING AT ROUGHLY \$20 MILLION DOLLARS IN OTHER
13 IMPACTS IN THE REST OF THE COUNTY. SO, WE'RE PROBABLY LOOKING
14 AT A \$30 MILLION DOLLAR OR SO HIT HERE JUST IN THE RISE IN
15 PRICES. AND AN INABILITY TO DO THE ROADS AND TO GET THINGS
16 DONE FOR THE COLLEGE, LIBRARIES IF THERE ARE LIBRARY
17 RENOVATIONS. I DON'T KNOW, MR. LEVENTHAL, WHAT THE IMPACT
18 WOULD BE ON H.H.S. FACILITIES. SO, I MEAN, I'M NOT EVEN SURE I
19 WOULD KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS IN AN E.D. COMMITTEE BECAUSE IT
20 IS OUT OF CONTEXT, AND IT IS SUCH A COUNTYWIDE ISSUE. AND I
21 THINK WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO LOOK AT SOME WAY TO GET THAT
22 FACTORED INTO WHAT WE DO THIS YEAR WITH THE C.I.P., ALTHOUGH
23 WE MAY BE LUCKY AT THIS POINT THAT THIS IS THE OFF YEAR. SO IT
24 MAY BE THAT WE DO NOTHING, AND AFTER THE BUDGETS START TO
25 TRACK IT. BECAUSE I DO UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRICES ARE
26 MODERATING SOMEWHAT, THAT THEY HAVE STARTED TO COME BACK DOWN.
27 NOW WHETHER THEY COME ALL THE WAY DOWN, PARTWAY DOWN, I DON'T
28 KNOW. AND I'M RELUCTANT TO DO ANYTHING IN THE E.D. COMMITTEE
29 WITH THIS THIS YEAR AT ALL. THERE IS ANOTHER ISSUE HERE WHICH
30 IS LAST YEAR, IF THE COUNCIL WILL REMEMBER, WE APPROVED CLOSE
31 TO A \$1 BILLION DOLLAR SIX YEAR C.I.P. FOR THE SCHOOLS. SO,
32 THERE IS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF CAPITAL INVESTED HERE. AND SO
33 THE ASSUMPTION THAT ALL OF THE ADDITIONAL COSTS WOULD FLOW TO
34 THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, I DON'T THINK IS A GOOD ONE. AND I'M TAKING
35 OFF MY HAT HERE AS E.D. COMMITTEE CHAIR AND REINSERTING MYSELF
36 AS A COUNCIL MEMBER. WHICH SOMETIMES HAT-JUGGLING IS NOT AN
37 EASY THING TO DO, BUT I THINK THIS IS A CASE WHERE I HAVE TO
38 TAKE IT OFF AND STEP IN, AND RE-STEP INTO MY SHOES AS A
39 COUNCIL MEMBER AND NOT JUST CHAIRMAN OF THE E.D. COMMITTEE. WE
40 HAVE DONE THINGS IN THE PAST. I THINK THE BOARD CANNOT ASSUME
41 THAT WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM THE MONEY, AND THAT WE ARE GOING
42 TO HAVE TO LOOK AT PRIORITY LISTS AND DELAYING A NUMBER OF
43 PROJECTS. WE DELAYED BIDS IN THE PAST BECAUSE OF INCREASED
44 COSTS, AND PUT A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON BIDS. MAYBE WE NEED

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1 TO DO THAT ACROSS THE BOARD. I DON'T KNOW. THE ISSUES HERE ARE
2 PRETTY BIG AND I HATE TO-- I KNOW THAT THE PLATTER FOR THE MFP
3 COMMITTEE IS OVERFLOWING. BUT, I MEAN, THIS SEEMS TO BE
4 SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE SPECIFIC
5 COMMITTEES AND GIVEN TO M.F.P. BECAUSE I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW,
6 I DON'T KNOW THAT I'M PREPARED TO WASTE THE TIME OF THE E.D.
7 COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT THIS, BECAUSE WE CAN'T COME UP WITH THE
8 SOLUTION THERE BECAUSE IT IS SO OUT OF CONTEXT UNTIL WE SEE
9 WHAT THE REST OF THE COUNCIL IS PREPARED TO DO. THAT SAID,
10 CLEARLY, THIS IS-- AND AS A COROLLARY TO ALL THAT, I'M NOT
11 BLAMING M.C.P.S. FOR THIS. THIS IS CLEARLY NOT AN M.C.P.S.
12 PROBLEM. THIS IS A NATIONAL PROBLEM.

13
14 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** INTERNATIONAL.

15
16 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM. THANK
17 YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

18
19 **SPEAKER:** I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT THAT STEEL MILL
20 YEARS AGO.

21
22 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** IT IS NOT PLASTICS. IT'S CONCRETE.

23
24 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** DR. WEAST IS SHOWING A LOT OF
25 CAPITALISTIC TRENDS HERE LATELY. THAT MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA.
26 THERE ARE A COUPLE OF EXTRA CONCRETE PLANTS OVER ON SOUTH LAWN.
27 YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK AT THOSE, TOO.

28
29 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** A PUBLIC PURPOSE.

30
31 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** I AM RELUCTANT TO TAKE THIS, ANY OF THESE
32 ISSUES, UP IN THE E.D. COMMITTEE. I DO APPRECIATE THE BRIEFING
33 BECAUSE IT-- WHILE I THINK IT IS OUT OF CONTEXT UNDER THE
34 UMBRELLA OF M.C.P.S., THIS IS CLEARLY SOMETHING THAT WE ALL
35 NEED TO KNOW. AND I THINK WE JUST NEED TO TAKE THIS WHOLE
36 THING AND-- FOR EXAMPLE, ON THIS ONE SLIDE HERE, AND TAKE OFF
37 "BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION" AND PUT IN "COUNTY ACTION." MY
38 ONLY DISMAY HERE IS THAT THIS WASN'T BROUGHT TO US BY THE
39 COUNTY POWERS. AND I DO THANK MR. LAVORANA, DR. HAWES AND DR.
40 WEAST FOR BRINGING THE EXTENT OF THIS TO OUR ATTENTION.

41
42 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** THANK YOU, MR. SUBIN. MS. PRAISNER?
43

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1 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** I WANTED TO COMMENT ON MUCH THE SAME
2 THINGS THAT MY COLLEAGUE, MR. SUBIN, WAS MENTIONING. ONE, I
3 APPRECIATE THE BRIEFING. IT DOES CALL TO ATTENTION AN ISSUE
4 THAT IS NOT OBVIOUSLY A MONTGOMERY COUNTY PROBLEM BUT IS
5 NATIONAL PROBLEM, AND MAYBE FOR THIS REGION HAS AN ACUTENESS
6 TO IT BUT IT IS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE FOR STEEL AND FOR CONCRETE
7 ACROSS THIS COUNTRY, FROM WHAT I HEAR. SECONDLY, I THINK MR.
8 SUBIN OR MR. PEREZ, WAS RIGHT IN ASKING DR. ORLIN THE
9 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IMPACT TAX BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN TRACKING
10 THAT. ALTHOUGH WE'LL SEE SOME INCREASE IN ACTIVITY, WE'RE NOT
11 GOING TO GET TO THE NUMBERS THAT WERE ASSUMED. SO, WHEN WE GET
12 TO-- EVEN WITH THE INCREASE IN THE RECORDATION TAX AND THE
13 SCHOOL IMPACT TAX MONEY, THE INCREASED STATE MONEY IN SCHOOL
14 CONSTRUCTION, THE \$10 MILLION EXTRA HELPS WITH THE OTHER
15 PROBLEMS. IT DOESN'T-- IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE HAD THE \$10
16 MILLION AS A BRAND-NEW, ON-THE-TOP \$10 MILLION. IT IS NOT THE
17 CASE, THOUGH, BECAUSE OF THE DECREASING ESTIMATES IN IMPACT
18 TAX ESPECIALLY. SO, THAT IS GOING TO REQUIRE US TO LOOK AT THE
19 REVENUE ISSUES AND THE EXPENDITURE ISSUES FOR ANY CAPITAL
20 BUDGET PROJECT. IT IS A GOOD THING THAT WE'RE IN AN OFF YEAR,
21 I BELIEVE, ALTHOUGH I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR FOLKS TO LOOK
22 AT '06 AT THE SAME TIME, WHICH IS WHAT WE ARE DOING, LOOKING
23 AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CURRENT YEAR AND TRYING TO PROJECT
24 FOR '06. AND IT'S CERTAINLY GOING TO HAVE IMPLICATIONS BEYOND,
25 INTO THE REST OF THE SIX-YEAR C.I.P.. I'LL BE HAPPY WHEN WE
26 DISCUSS REVENUE MEASURES, WHICH IS ON MAY 13TH, TO ADD AN ITEM
27 ON HAVING A DISCUSSION ON JUST CAPITAL BUDGET AND WHERE WE ARE
28 WITH THE ASSUMPTIONS OF REVENUE ESPECIALLY, AND LOOKING AT THE
29 IMPLICATIONS FOR '06. EVEN IF ONE GOES FORWARD BY BIDDING '06
30 PROJECTS, THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO BE CLEAR THAT WHAT THE
31 IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESULTS OF THOSE BIDS MIGHT BE IS THAT WE
32 DEFER PROJECTS OR WE DEFER SOMETHING ELSE. SO WHETHER IT IS IN
33 THE SCHOOL SYSTEM OR IT IS IN ANOTHER AGENCY, THERE IS GOING
34 TO BE AN IMPACT ON THE PROJECTS WE GO FORWARD WITH, BECAUSE
35 THE COSTS ARE LIKELY TO BE HIGHER. AND THAT'S GOING TO HAVE AN
36 IMPACT ON THE CAPACITY AS TO THE OVERALL NUMBERS OF PROJECTS
37 WE DO. I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THIS
38 DIALOGUE, NOT JUST WITH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. I'M GLAD
39 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COLLEGE ARE HERE. IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO
40 SEE YOU. BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE COUNTY
41 GOVERNMENT, O.M.B. AND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT THERE, GLENN,
42 WHEN WE HAVE OUR CONVERSATION MEETING. I THINK THE 13TH WOULD
43 BE GOOD TIMING.

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1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ: MR. DENIS?

2
3 COUNCILMEMBER DENIS: I WOULD JUST LIKE TO BE RECORDED IN THE
4 AFFIRMATIVE ON ITEM 4, THE VOTE THAT OCCURRED. I WAS
5 TEMPORARILY ABSENT.

6
7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ: WITHOUT OBJECTION.

8
9 COUNCILMEMBER DENIS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

10
11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ: GREAT. WELL, THANK YOU. THIS WAS
12 TIMELY, BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO HEAR TONIGHT FROM THE
13 COMMUNITY AND IT WILL BE USEFUL TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION SO
14 THAT WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT THE COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDS THE
15 CONSTRAINTS THAT WE'RE UP AGAINST. I APPRECIATE IT. AND I
16 BELIEVE THAT IS ALL SHE WROTE FOR THIS MORNING. SORRY THAT WE
17 WERE TEN MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. WE WILL TRY NOT TO DO THAT.
18 WE WILL TRY TO FIX THAT. MR. SUBIN, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU
19 SPEAK FOR TEN MINUTES ABOUT GEESE, ABOUT GOOSE AND GOSLING.

20
21 COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN: ABOUT GEESE? GEESE CROSSING STREET?
22 (COUNCIL MEETING IN RECESS)

Afternoon Session

23
24
25
26
27 COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL: GOOD AFTERNOON. THIS IS A PUBLIC
28 HEARING ON A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE COUNTY
29 GOVERNMENT'S F.Y. '05 OPERATING BUDGET NON-DEPARTMENTAL
30 ACCOUNT FOR UTILITIES IN AMOUNT OF \$1,898,510. ACTION IS
31 TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 18, 2005. PERSONS WHO WISH TO
32 SUBMIT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
33 SHOULD DO SO BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS MAY 10TH, 2005. THERE
34 ARE NO SPEAKERS FOR THIS HEARING. GOOD AFTERNOON. THIS IS A
35 PUBLIC HEARING ON A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE F.Y. '05
36 OPERATING BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
37 TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DIVISION OF TRANSIT SERVICES IN THE
38 AMOUNT OF \$2,750,000. ACTION IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY
39 17, 2005. PERSONS WHO WISH TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
40 FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION SHOULD DO SO BY THE CLOSE OF
41 BUSINESS MAY 10, 2005. THERE ARE NO SPEAKERS FOR THIS HEARING.
42 GOOD AFTERNOON. THIS IS A PUBLIC HEARING ON A SUPPLEMENTAL
43 APPROPRIATION TO THE F.Y. '05 OPERATING DEPARTMENT OF THE
44 DEPARTMENT OF POLICE FOR OVERTIME EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT

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1 OF \$2,050,920. THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE IS TENTATIVELY
2 SCHEDULED TO TAKE THIS UP ON JUNE 13, 2005.

3
4 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** MAY.

5
6 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** IT SAYS JUNE, JUNE 13TH.

7
8 **SPEAKER:** WE ARE WAITING FOR THIRD QUARTER FINANCIALS. WE MAY
9 MOVE IT UP IF WE GET THEM BEFORE THEN.

10
11 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** OKAY. PERSONS WHO WISH TO SUBMIT
12 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION SHOULD
13 DO SO BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 6, 2005. MR. FICKER WAS
14 HERE A MOMENT AGO. HE HAS SIGNED UP AS A WITNESS ON THIS
15 MATTER. IS MR. FICKLER HERE? GOING ONCE, TWICE. MR. FICKER,
16 YOU'RE UP.

17
18 **ROBIN FICKER:** I WAS LOOKING FOR YOUR HANDOUT ON ONE OF THE
19 HEARINGS, BUT I DIDN'T SEE IT. THEY RAN OUT.

20
21 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME CLEARLY FOR
22 THE RECORD. YOUR TIME IS RUNNING, MR. FICKER.

23
24 **ROBIN FICKER:** OKAY. ROBIN FICKER.

25
26 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** PLEASE PRESS YOUR MICROPHONE.

27
28 **ROBIN FICKER:** ROBIN FICKER, TESTIFYING FOR HIGH TAX ZONE. I
29 NOTE THAT THERE IS AN APPLICATION FOR APPROPRIATION FOR THE
30 DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, AND ALSO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,
31 FOR OVERTIME. WE'VE HAD A NUMBER OF COST OVERRUNS IN THE
32 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. WE DECIDED TO BUILD THE CLARKSBURG
33 JAIL, THERE WAS A COST OVERRUN THERE. THEN THEY DECIDED NOT TO
34 CLOSE THE JAIL IN ROCKVILLE, WHICH THEY HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT
35 CLOSING, THEN THERE WAS A COST OVERRUN THERE. AND NOW WE SEE
36 ANOTHER TYPE OF COST OVERRUN CALLED AN OVERTIME COST OVERRUN.
37 ACTUALLY THE-- WHAT IS BEING OVERRUN IS THE TAXPAYERS OF
38 MONTGOMERY COUNTY. \$2 MILLION HERE, \$3 MILLION THERE, PRETTY
39 SOON YOU HAVE REAL MONEY. THESE KIND OF OVERRUNS RESULT IN
40 PROPERTY TAX INCREASES, RESULT IN MOVING CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF
41 HOUSING FROM REASONABLY-PRICED HOUSING TO HIGHER-PRICED
42 HOUSING BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED TAX COSTS, AND ARE RESULTING
43 IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE NOT BEING ABLE TO LIVE IN
44 MONTGOMERY COUNTY. NOW, IF YOU LOOK AT THE WASHINGTON POST

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1 ARTICLE OF DECEMBER 16, 2004, WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN?
2 THERE, THERE WAS TALK OF A CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF EMERGENCY CALL-
3 TAKERS AND DISPATCHERS IN THE 9-1-1 CALL CENTER. WHAT EFFORTS
4 HAVE BEEN MADE TO FIND PEOPLE TO STAFF THAT CENTER? TELEPHONE
5 CALLING SERVICES HAVEN'T HAD PROBLEMS STAFFING THEIR CENTERS.
6 WHAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO STEP UP THE EFFORT TO FIND
7 APPROPRIATELY CREDENTIALLED PERSONNEL TO TAKE THESE ALL-
8 IMPORTANT CALLS? I HAVE DONE 18,000 CASES IN THE MARYLAND
9 COURTS. I KNOW THAT, FOR MOST OF THESE CASES POLICE OFFICERS
10 HAVE ONE DAY A MONTH IN COURT. WHY CAN'T WE WORK OUT-- WITH
11 THE I.T. PROFESSIONALS THAT WE HAVE NOW, WHY CAN'T WE SCHEDULE
12 THE TIME OF THESE POLICE OFFICERS WHO WORK EVENINGS AND
13 WEEKENDS SO THAT IF THEY HAVE TO BE IN COURT THE NEXT DAY, AND
14 THEY ONLY HAVE ONE COURT DATE A MONTH, WHY CAN'T WE SCHEDULE
15 THOSE COURT DATES SO THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO WORK THE NIGHT
16 BEFORE? WHY CAN'T WE WORK OUT A COMPUTER PROGRAM SO THAT
17 OFFICERS DO NOT HAVE TO SPEND-- DO NOT HAVE TO RECEIVE OVERTIME
18 FOR THEIR ONE DAY IN COURT A MONTH? I KNOW THAT THERE ARE
19 CERTAIN TIMES WHEN THAT IS UNAVOIDABLE, BUT WHAT EFFORT HAS
20 BEEN MADE TO REDUCE THESE OVERRUNS? THE DEPARTMENT OF
21 CORRECTIONS. RUNNING A JAIL IS PRETTY MUCH LIKE RUNNING A
22 HOTEL. YOU KNOW WHO'S GOING TO BE THERE. YOU KNOW WHAT HOURS
23 IT'S OPEN. YOU KNOW WHAT GUESTS YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE. IT'S
24 PREDICTABLE. THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME WE'VE OPENED A JAIL.
25 THERE HAVE BEEN NO RIOTS IN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL THAT
26 REQUIRE EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF OVERTIME. WHY IS THERE ANY
27 OVERTIME IN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS?
28 IT'S PRETTY MUCH PREDICTABLE. AND I THINK THAT THE-- GIVING
29 THIS OVERTIME SO LITTLE SCRUTINY, AND SEEING THAT THE SAME
30 PROBLEMS RESULT NOW IN MAY THAT WERE DETAILED BY THE
31 WASHINGTON POST IN DECEMBER, WHAT HAS CHANGED? (CHIME) WHAT
32 HAVE WE DONE FOR THE TAXPAYERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO
33 PRECLUDE THESE COST OVERRUNS? I KNOW THAT MOST OF YOU PUT OUT-
34 -

35
36 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** GOT TO WRAP UP.

37
38 **ROBIN FICKER:** --A MAILING SAYING THAT WE'D HAVE TO CUT EIGHT
39 LIBRARIES AND 956 TEACHERS TO STICK TO THE PROPERTY TAX LIMIT.
40 WHY DIDN'T YOU MENTION WE'D HAVE TO CUT OVERTIME AT THE
41 CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT?

42
43 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** OKAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. FICKER.
44

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1 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** MR. SUBIN HAD HIS LIGHT ON, I THINK.
2 MR. SUBIN? DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

3
4 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** I'D LIKE THE CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY
5 COMMITTEE TO SEE IF WE CAN INSTRUCT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO
6 PROHIBIT OVERTIME, SO THAT IF ANY HOLDOVERS ARE NEEDED TO
7 STAFF THE SHORT SHIFTS WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT BEATS GO
8 UNCOVERED. CAN WE DO THAT?

9
10 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** I'M NOT SURE THAT WOULD BE IN THE
11 PUBLIC INTEREST, MR. SUBIN.

12
13 **COUNCILMEMBER SUBIN:** WELL, IT MIGHT NOT. BUT I THINK WE COULD
14 ASK THE CHIEF WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD BE.

15
16 **SPEAKER:** I NOTE THAT THE

17
18 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY, I HAVE NO OTHER LIGHTS ON.
19 THANK YOU, MR. FICKER. WE'LL MOVE TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER TEN.
20 THIS IS A PUBLIC HEARING ON A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ON
21 F.Y. '05 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
22 AND REHABILITATION FOR OVERTIME EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF
23 \$3,018,020. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WORK SESSION TENTATIVELY
24 SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13, 2005. PERSONS WISHING TO SUBMIT
25 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION SHOULD
26 DO SO BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON JUNE 6TH. THERE ARE NO
27 WITNESSES FOR THIS HEARING. AGENDA ITEM 11--

28
29 **ROBERT FICKER:** I THINK THAT IS A MISTAKE, BECAUSE I HAD SIGNED
30 UP FOR BOTH.

31
32 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** SIR, YOU ARE NOT SIGNED UP ON THIS
33 AND YOU'VE ALREADY--

34
35 **ROBERT FICKER:** I SIGNED UP FOR CORRECTIONS AND POLICE.

36
37 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** YOU GET TO TESTIFY ONCE.

38
39 **ROBERT FICKER:** OKAY, WELL-- EVEN THOUGH IT IS TWO ITEMS?

40
41 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** THE RULES STATE THAT ANY WITNESS MAY--
42 - IF IT IS ONE WITNESS, A WITNESS MAY SPEAK ON MULTIPLE ITEMS,
43 BUT GETS ONE CHANCE TO SPEAK.

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1 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** ALRIGHT, NUMBER 11, PUBLIC HEARING ON
2 A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE '05 OPERATING BUDGET,
3 VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR. HOMELAND SECURITY
4 GRANT PROGRAM, IN AMOUNT OF \$2,692,380. HOMELAND SECURITY
5 COMMITTEE WORK SESSION IS TENTATIVELY SET FOR MAY 6TH AT 2:00
6 P.M. PERSONS WISHING TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE
7 COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION SHOULD DO SO BY CLOSE OF THE HEARING.
8 THERE ARE NO WITNESSES FOR THAT. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 12 IS A
9 PUBLIC HEARING ON A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR MARYLAND
10 NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION'S F.Y. '05
11 OPERATING BUDGET. VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS FOR THE F.Y. '04,
12 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$109,220.
13 HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE WORK SESSIONS TENTATIVELY SET FOR
14 MAY 6TH AT 2:00 P.M. PERSONS WISHING TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL
15 INFORMATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION SHOULD DO SO BY
16 THE CLOSE OF HEARING. NO WITNESSES FOR THAT ITEM. NUMBER 13 IS
17 PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A MARYLAND LAND
18 PRESERVATION AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT FOR THE 140-ACRE SHILOH
19 FARM, LOCATED AT 12140 BIG WOODS ROAD IN DICKERSON. ACTION IS
20 SCHEDULED FOLLOWING THE HEARING. THERE ARE NO WITNESSES. AND
21 WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION ON AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 13. MOVED AND
22 SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR? UNANIMOUS AMONG THOSE PRESENT. AND I
23 BELIEVE WE ARE ADJOURNED. E.D. COMMITTEE IS ON 7TH FLOOR AT
24 2:00, P.H.E.D. COMMITTEE ON THE THIRD FLOOR AT 2:00. I'M GLAD
25 THAT THE COUNCIL CLEARLY HAS THE PRIORITIES STRAIGHT. MR.
26 SILVERMAN?

27
28 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** I JUST WANT TO KNOW, WHY IT IS THAT
29 THE E.D. COMMITTEE IS ALWAYS ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR AND WE'RE ON
30 THE-- OH, NEVERMIND...

31
32 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** THE COUNCIL MEMBER FROM SOUTH
33 CAROLINA HAS DIFFICULTY GETTING DOWN TO THE THIRD FLOOR
34 SOMETIMES. THANK YOU.